

WASHINGTON, DC – Congresswoman Gwen Moore today announced the Housing Authority of the City of Milwaukee and the South Milwaukee Community Development Authority will receive \$10.3 million and \$115,000 respectively from the Department of Housing and Urban Development. The funding- a direct result of the President's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)- will give the public housing authorities a portion of the nearly \$3 billion of ARRA funds to make improvements to public housing units nationwide. HUD has informed the housing authorities that spending can begin on a backlog of previously underfunded capital improvement projects.

"The most recent infusion of Recovery Act dollars in our community are going to be used first and foremost to create jobs and secondly to make sure our public housing authorities are able to develop, finance, modernize and manage improvements," said Rep. Moore. "People in our community will not only feel the impact of the Recovery Act in their community but they will be able to see it in their homes."

Both public housing authorities have already indicated how they intend to use the additional Recovery Act funds. The Housing Authority of the City of Milwaukee has proposed substantially modernizing their Lapham Park high-rise, which has 200 units of senior housing and was one of the first service-enriched public housing communities in the United States. In addition, they have proposed the revitalization of Westlawn (726 family units), the largest public housing development in the State of Wisconsin as well as upgrading card access and security camera surveillance systems for 14 mixed/senior buildings. And the South Milwaukee CDA intends to use the additional funds to modernize and/or refurbish their 60 unit building located on 6th Avenue in South Milwaukee by replacing sump pumps, wooden stairs in family units and high-maintenance storm and entry doors with single energy efficient doors.

Recovery Act funding provided through HUD's Public Housing Capital Fund Program is effectively doubling the Department's annual support of local housing authorities to improve their public housing stock. Allocated through an established formula, this funding will allow local housing agencies the ability to address long-standing improvements to public housing units, create jobs, and increase energy efficiency. HUD will shortly make an additional \$1 billion available in capital funding to housing authorities that will be awarded through a competition.

"President Obama has given us the mandate to put this money to work quickly so it can make a real difference in the lives of Americans," said HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan. "HUD is working overtime to get this money to our housing authorities so they can repair and produce critically needed affordable housing, create jobs, and improve the quality of life for their residents."

HUD's Capital Fund Program provides annual funding to public housing authorities to develop, finance, and/or modernize the public housing in their communities. This funding can also be used to make large-scale improvements such as new roofs; and for the replacement of plumbing and electrical systems to increase energy efficiency.

"As we continue to confront this economic downturn, now more than ever we need to invest critical dollars into our communities," said Congresswoman Moore. "The Recovery Act funding we are seeing invested in our community will make a difference to that construction worker

looking for work or that family in need of affordable housing.”

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